

OREGON CROP WEATHER



**NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE**

USDA, NASS, Oregon Field Office

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Weather: Despite a slight warming trend last week, most areas continued to experience cooler than normal temperatures. High temperatures ranged from 82 degrees in Medford to 55 degrees in the coastal cities of Bandon and North Bend. Low temperatures ranged from 44 degrees in Portland to 21 degrees in Redmond. The Florence weather station received the most precipitation with 0.34 inches followed by the Detroit Lake station with 0.30 inches. Only 15 of the 34 stations received measurable precipitation and rainfall levels continued to fall below average throughout the State.

Field Crops: Crop development continued to be behind normal across the State. Hay in western areas showed some improvement, while some eastern areas showed slow growth. Spring wheat planting continued in Washington County. Clover and grass for hay looked good. Fields were being prepared for potatoes in northeastern counties. Strong winds over the weekend may have damaged some plants in Malheur County. With forage and grain crops behind normal, yields will most likely be impacted. Some small grain planting was still reported in various areas of Oregon.

Vegetables: A decrease in precipitation this past week allowed growers to continue their planting, as well as starting to work and cultivate their vegetable crops. Beans, beets, corn, tomatoes, and peppers were reported as being planted throughout the Willamette Valley. The status of farmer's markets was reported as mediocre in the central Willamette Valley, probably due to a lack of early produce. Rhubarb was being picked for processors and local farmer's markets in Washington County.

Fruits and Nuts: It is still unknown the extent of damage done by earlier weather conditions, but generally fruit crops are thought to be two weeks behind typical development. In the north Willamette Valley, strawberries

and some varieties of blueberries were in bloom. Grapes were in bud burst. Early apples and pears were in bloom. Most growers had applied their final Eastern Filbert Blight sprays. The codling moth adults began their emergence last week. In the south Willamette Valley, the plum, peach, and cherry crops appear reduced 50 percent from last year. Apples, pears, and blueberries are expected to pollinate adequately in Douglas County, but stone fruits are expected to be light crops. Many southern Oregon tree fruits were done with bloom. There was visible signs of frost damage, but the full extent will not be known until June drop. Unsettled weather conditions prevailed throughout Hood River County. A few calm, dry mornings provided opportunities for applying pear petal-fall sprays in the lower Hood River Valley. At week's end, crop development in the lower Hood River Valley was as follows: initial post bloom fruit drop occurring on d'Anjou pear; Red Delicious apple at full bloom to post bloom (WSU stages 8 & 9); Bing cherry at post bloom (WSU stage 9); Pinot noir grape at Eichhorn-Lorenz stage 7.

Nurseries and Greenhouses: Nurseries were busy with tree and shrub sales. Some nurseries had limited stock available of bedding plants. Greenhouses remained busy with vegetable and ornamental flower sales. Most greenhouses were growing stock, but the cold weather has delayed some activities.

Livestock, Range and Pasture: Although showing improvement, pastures continued to show slow growth due to below normal temperatures last week. The cool conditions have also taken their toll on rangelands, with warm-season grasses not producing as much forage as usual. In spite of this, livestock looked to be in good health. Some marking of calves was being done in southern Oregon in preparation for high range grazing.

Soil Moisture-Week Ending 05/11/08

	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Topsoil	5	25	65	5
Subsoil	6	20	68	6

Crop Progress-Week Ending 05/11/08

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5 year average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Barley planted	93	90	96	88
Barley emerged	61	57	84	70
Spring wheat planted	97	96	100	96
Spring wheat emerged	78	76	93	81
Days suitable for fieldwork	6.6	5.6	6.0	5.5

Crop Condition-Week Ending 05/11/08

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Winter wheat	0	31	41	23	5
Spring wheat	0	45	31	20	4
Barley	0	9	55	23	13
Range and pasture	1	17	36	36	10

WESTERN OREGON

BENTON/LINN/LANE: The fruit crop was generally two weeks slow in size. Plums were at the end of bloom with over 50 percent down so far. The peach and cherry crops also appeared to be reduced by over 50 percent. Apples were blooming and it appears to be a huge crop but not many bees to be seen. Pears also look like a huge crop. Hazelnut leaves were about one to two inches. Blueberries were starting to bloom with some leaf cold damage visible. Bloom buds were showing on strawberries. Farmers markets have been doing mediocre. The vegetable crop was being worked and planted. Most greenhouses were growing stock. The weather was still cold and brisk. Many soil crops were delayed due to wet soils and cold evening temperatures. Growth regulator was being applied as well as fungicides for disease.

CLACKAMAS: There was a much improved drying trend increasing through the end of last week. Growth of nearly everything is late. Ground was being worked, but a lot of it was still pretty wet. There was still snow visible on the foothills of the Cascades, a sign per the old timers that it is still OK to plant spring grain. Two years ago we cut grass hay this Saturday before Mother's Day. Grass had just begun to head and it was the best hay we ever made. Grass is not even "in the boot" yet this year.

COOS/CURRY: Temperatures were unseasonably cool through much of the week but warmed up from previous weeks, with a high of 63 degrees in Brookings on Wednesday. Only traces of precipitation for the week, with .05 inches over 2 days. Pastures continued to dry out and improved due to the sunny days. Strong north winds were beginning to dry out the better drained pastures. Curry County: The low temperature for the period was 42.95 degrees, 1.71 degrees below the 5-year average. The high temperature for the period was 63.08 degrees, 6.28 degrees below the 5-year average. Precipitation for the period was 0.05 inches, compared to a 5-year (including drought years 2003-2004) average of 0.65 inches. Precipitation for Current weather year precipitation (began 10/07) stands at 63.02 inches, 13.01 inches below the 5 year average. Historical average precipitation through May is 68.15 inches.

DOUGLAS: Weather has been mild enough to allow good pollination for apples and most pears. The blueberry crop looked to be pollinating ok. The stone fruit crops were not looking good: Plums no crop, peaches very light crop, apricots no crop, prunes light to medium crop, cherries light to medium crop. Recent cool dry weather has allowed field work to roll. Cultivation for vegetable planting was well along. Cool soil temperatures were still keeping warm season crop seeding on hold for one more week.

JACKSON: As weather was a bit better last week, more ground preparation for vegetables was being done. Most onions are now in, but

other vegetables were just getting ground preparation. Most spring field crops were planted, but there are still some late plantings to be done. The hay crop was looking better, but still a little late and short. Apples, pears, plums, and peaches were all done blooming. There was some visible frost damage, but will not know extent until the June drop. Lots of spraying was being done, mostly for mites and moths. Some weed control was also being done. Greenhouses were still very busy with vegetable and ornamental flower starts. Nurseries were still busy with sales of trees and shrubs. The cold and wet weather held back some activity until now. All livestock were looking good and most were out on valley pastures. There were lots of babies of all kinds. There was some marking of calves being done in preparation for higher range grazing.

JOSEPHINE: Day and night time temperatures were mild. Cool winds and one slight storm moved through the area leaving dew to 0.15 inches of rain depending on area of the County. Pasture land was still good where not overgrazed. Hay fields were coming along. Projected cutting dates look to be on schedule with yield looking real good. Some truck gardens were setting in early crops corn, tomatoes, peppers, etc., with the hope that the weather pattern won't change. Nurseries were doing good trade but are not well stocked in the southern portion of the County. Some nurseries are not well stocked with bedding plants. Vineyard grapes were leafing out well.

MARION: There was very little rain last week, but there was still plenty of moisture in the soil. Farmers were very busy tilling for spring planting. Beans were being planted. Irrigation was running in nurseries. Overall, field crops were looking better as temperatures moved more to normal, but crops were still behind some in development.

WASHINGTON: Spring wheat was being planted in drowned out field areas. Spot spraying in grass fields was being done. Alfalfa and clover were growing well as was grass for hay. Strawberries and some varieties of blueberries were blooming. However, all berries were two weeks behind in growth. Grapes were in bud burst. Gravenstein apples and Asian pears were in bloom. Pollination continued to be questionable due to cool weather in all fruit crops. Rhubarb was being picked for processors and local farmers markets. Beans, beets, corn, and potatoes were being planted. Fields continued to be worked on and the potted plant rotation was emerging. Pastures were showing improvement.

YAMHILL: Most growers have applied their final Eastern Filbert Blight sprays. The codling moth adults began their emergence this week.

EASTERN OREGON

BAKER/UNION: Wheat and barley was being planted. Fields were being prepared for potatoes. Pastures were short and dry. Temperatures have been cool and dry. Producers are concerned that the weather will turn hot and dry.

CROOK/DESCHUTES: Winter grain mites and clover mites have, again, been a problem in grass pastures and hay fields this spring. There were a few fields of winter wheat that had a little winter kill in areas (no-till following previous grain crop and no fertilizer added). We are running about three to four weeks behind last year at this time for T-Sum growing degree days (32 degree base temperature). Range grasses were short with the cool weather. Irrigated pastures were not growing very fast either at this point. Alfalfa was slow to grow. This will be an interesting year for forage and cereal crops being so far behind last year. This cool weather will/could impact hay yields and amount of hay available for sale this coming year. There has not been a lot of moisture that has fallen in the last number of weeks.

HARNEY: Harney County finally saw some warmer day time temperatures last week. Night time lows were still mostly dipping down below the freezing mark. We've seen very little precipitation this spring and surface soils are bone dry. Irrigation has started on some alfalfa fields. The warmer day time temperatures stimulated some growth on range pastures, but the dry conditions and cold nights are delaying rapid spring growth on many ranges.

HOOD RIVER: Unsettled weather conditions prevailed through the week. A few calm, dry mornings provided opportunities for applying pear petal-fall sprays in the lower Hood River Valley. At week's end, crop development in the lower Hood River Valley was as follows: initial post bloom fruit drop occurring on d'Anjou pear; Red Delicious apple at full bloom to post bloom (WSU stages 8 & 9); Bing cherry at post bloom (WSU stage 9); Pinot noir grape at Eichhorn-Lorenz stage 7.

JEFFERSON: Potato planting was delayed due to cold temperatures, but is now underway.

KLAMATH: Cooler temperatures continued during the week. Night time temperatures were below freezing. Planting and irrigation continued. There was slow growth on pasture and alfalfa crops.

MALHEUR: Temperatures were up and down but still cooler than normal with no rain. April was the 5th driest on record for this area. Planting and irrigating activities continued. Reservoir levels were less than anticipated earlier in the year. Winds blew fairly strong on over the weekend, which may have damaged some plants.

UMATILLA: Weather warmed up from previous weeks, but cool and dry conditions continued to be a factor in crop conditions with delayed crop development and signs of water stress starting to show in shallow soils. Soil moisture conditions are becoming critical. If forecasted temperatures reach the mid 80's by the end of the proceeding week as predicted, crop conditions are likely to rapidly decline.

WASCO: More moisture is needed for all dryland crops and then some warmer weather days! Rangeland was dry and the spring grasses have not produced as much forage as usual due to earlier cold temperatures. It is shaping up to be one of those years when no one is happy with the weather. The wind last week hampered ground spraying on cereal crop fields. Wild rye was starting to head out in wheat fields. Activity in fruit orchards included spraying and mowing grass strips between tree rows. Frost damage and pollination has not been fully assessed yet. Alfalfa was starting to bloom. Grapes were starting to leaf out while strawberries were in full bloom. Livestock on range and pasture grasses were doing quite well in most areas. The hills were getting brown rapidly. More rain is needed for all crops.

Weather data for selected stations in Oregon, Week ending: May 11, 2008 (as of 11:00 am) ¹

Station	Air temperature ²				Growing degree days ³		Last week precip. ⁴			Season cum. precipitation ⁵			
	Low	High	Avg.	DFN ⁶	Total	DFN ⁶	Total inches	DFN ⁶	Days ⁷	Total inches	DFN ⁶	Pct. normal	Days ⁷
COASTAL AREAS													
Astoria/Clatsop	41	59	50	-3	3	-11	0.18	-0.54	4	55.82	-3.96	93	168
Bandon ⁸	36	55	48	-4	-	-14	0.09	-0.59	2	51.45	-3.03	94	160
Crescent City	39	55	49	-4	3	-22	0.02	-0.71	1	43.64	-17.23	72	110
Florence	31	59	48	-5	1	-17	0.34	-0.57	2	80.49	10.80	115	145
North Bend	36	55	49	-4	2	-19	0.04	-0.68	1	56.10	-2.57	96	135
Tillamook	37	59	50	-2	4	-8	0.22	-0.83	2	52.50	-26.96	66	156
WILLAMETTE VALLEY													
Aurora ⁸	43	75	53	-2	21	-8	-	-0.49	-	39.13	2.68	107	146
Corvallis	39	72	50	-4	11	-17	-	-0.48	-	41.02	2.06	105	141
Detroit Lake ⁸	36	74	51	+4	16	+8	0.30	-0.48	2	80.33	19.11	131	155
Eugene	33	71	51	-4	11	-23	0.01	-0.49	1	33.40	-11.69	74	124
Hillsboro	34	74	51	-3	15	-13	-	-0.36	-	29.51	-4.10	88	126
McMinnville	38	72	52	-3	17	-17	-	-0.44	-	32.41	-7.43	81	136
Portland	44	74	54	-2	31	-9	0.05	-0.44	3	29.60	-2.28	93	139
Salem	40	74	52	-1	18	-8	-	-0.42	-	34.77	-0.59	98	125
SW VALLEYS													
Grants Pass	37	80	56	-2	45	-8	-	-0.28	-	26.48	-2.63	91	111
Medford	38	82	57	+2	54	+8	0.01	-0.22	1	15.08	-1.84	89	93
Roseburg	37	77	55	-1	36	-6	-	-0.35	-	30.51	0.51	102	124
NORTH CENTRAL													
Condon	27	74	49	-1	12	-2	-	-0.28	-	9.72	-1.42	87	86
Echo ⁸	36	79	55	-3	36	-17	-	-0.14	-	6.79	-0.72	90	86
Heppner	31	76	53	-1	28	-3	-	-0.35	-	10.45	-0.65	94	98
Hermiston	35	79	56	-3	41	-12	-	-0.14	-	6.65	-0.86	89	67
Madras ⁸	28	73	48	-5	9	-17	0.02	-0.12	2	6.00	-2.13	74	82
Moro	34	72	51	-1	20	-1	-	-0.17	-	8.38	-0.87	91	73
Parkdale ⁸	30	70	49	-6	6	-28	0.10	-0.11	2	19.95	-8.78	69	94
Pendleton	32	76	54	-3	32	-13	0.01	-0.21	1	8.37	-1.56	84	78
Prairie City ⁸	28	73	48	-5	9	-17	0.02	-0.12	2	6.00	-2.13	74	82
The Dalles	42	81	57	+5	49	+23	-	-0.14	-	12.27	1.59	115	74
SOUTH CENTRAL													
Agency Lake ⁸	36	71	50	+3	12	+5	-	-0.21	-	10.41	-3.25	76	82
Bend	25	71	47	-2	6	-4	-	-0.14	-	11.58	2.34	125	71
Burns	28	73	49	+0	7	-7	-	-0.21	-	7.35	-0.10	99	85
Christmas Valley ⁸	23	74	46	-6	1	-20	-	-0.21	-	4.02	-5.63	42	59
Klamath Falls	27	73	48	-3	7	-12	-	-0.18	-	7.60	-3.68	67	71
Klamath Falls ⁸	29	72	49	-3	11	-8	-	-0.18	-	8.28	-3.00	73	95
Lakeview	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lorella ⁸	25	73	48	-4	4	-15	-	-0.18	-	6.98	-4.30	62	93
Redmond	21	75	47	-3	5	-9	-	-0.14	-	1.66	-4.71	26	33
Worden ⁸	26	74	48	-4	6	-13	-	-0.18	-	6.86	-4.42	61	92
NORTHEAST													
Baker City	26	74	48	-3	5	-10	-	-0.27	-	6.54	-0.59	92	88
Joseph	27	68	47	+1	4	+4	-	-0.42	-	13.97	-5.89	70	102
La Grande	30	73	52	-1	15	-8	-	-0.35	-	9.30	-4.22	69	77
Union	31	73	51	+0	19	+4	-	-0.35	-	7.77	-1.87	81	80
SOUTHEAST													
Ontario	32	79	59	+1	62	+3	-	-0.14	-	5.30	-2.53	68	60
Rome	25	76	54	+1	29	-2	0.02	-0.19	1	6.09	0.26	104	71

¹ Summary based on NWS data. Copyright 2008: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

² Air temperature in degrees Fahrenheit.

³ Growing degree days base-50 degrees Fahrenheit.

⁴ Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

⁵ Season cumulative precipitation starts September 1, 2007.

⁶ DFN=Departure from normal (using 1961-1990 normals period).

⁷ Precipitation days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

⁸ Agri-Met weather stations.